

## Marietta University Enhancement District

### Livable Centers Initiative Study

#### OPEN HOUSE SUMMARY

#### Marietta Center for Advanced Academics – Cafeteria

May 7, 2013, 4:30 pm to 6:30 pm

#### Overview

Approximately 70 community members attended the MU2 LCI Open House on May 7 at the Marietta Center for Advanced Academics (MCAA). The public meeting gave participants an opportunity to review the draft conceptual plan for the study area and to learn about draft recommendations for implementing the overall vision for the area, identified through the public engagement process. A window of two hours was provided for community members to come and go at their leisure:

- All attendees received a copy of the draft conceptual plan upon arriving.
- Displays were mounted throughout the room that reflected the central recommendations of the plan. Materials were organized around five stations: 1. Sign-in Table, 2. Redevelopment & Economic Growth Strategies, 3. Overall Concept & Land Use, 4. Transportation & Connectivity, and 5. Linking [MU2 LCI] to other area plans. *The room layout is provided on the next page.*
- The project consultant team, led by Jim Summerbell of Jacobs Engineering, gave a brief overview of the study process and key elements of the plan's recommendations.
- Geoff Koski of Bleakly Advisory Group presented the key outcomes of the market analysis, including the development vision for the area and keys to implementation.



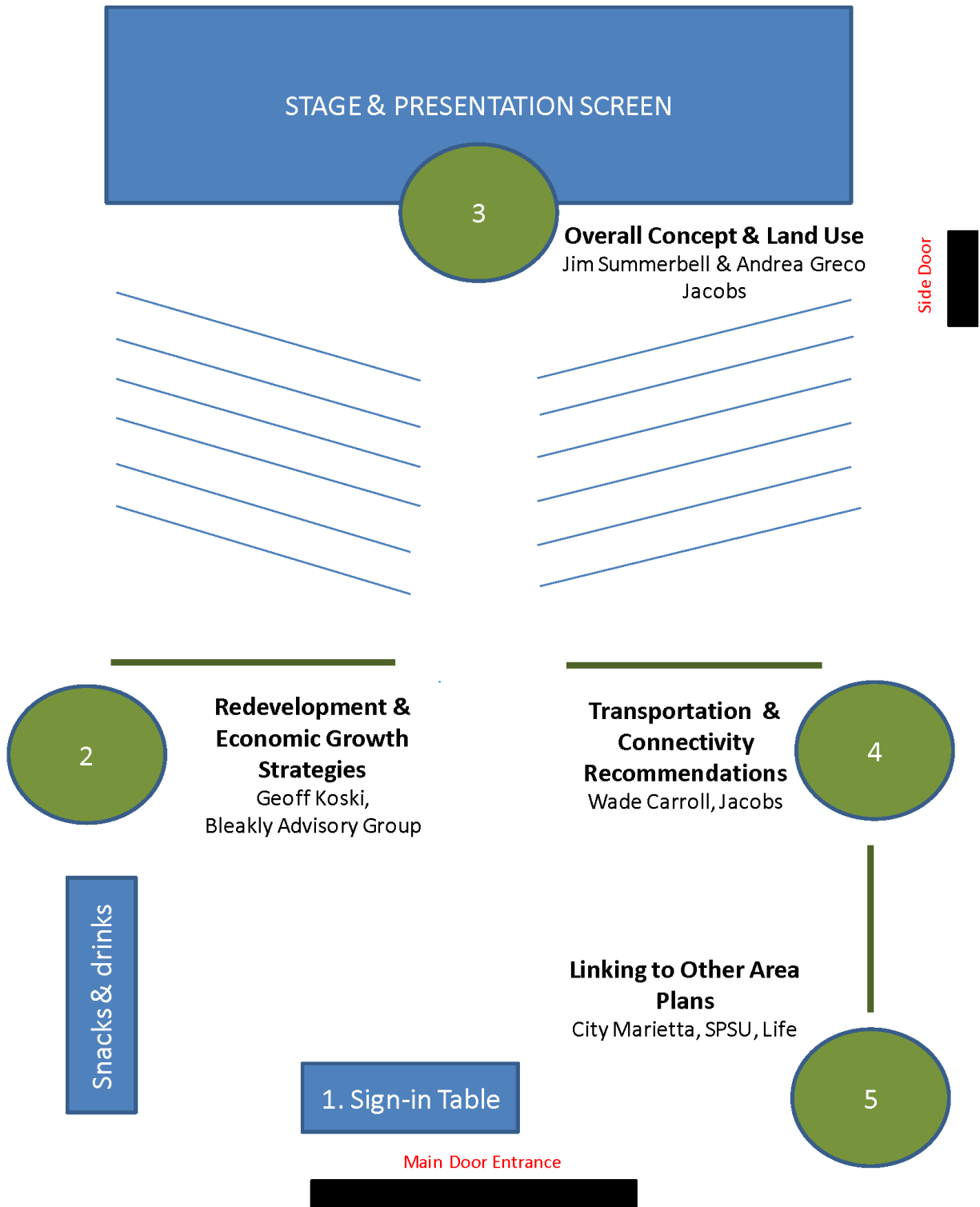
*City of Marietta staff fields questions from meeting house attendees*



*Jim Summerbell of Jacobs gives a brief overview presentation of the study process and outcomes.*

Participants were asked to provide comments on the draft plan and its recommendations either directly to the project team or via comment forms given to attendees as they arrived at the meeting. These comments are provided on pages 3 and 4 of this summary and being considered in final edits to the LCI plan.

## MU2 LCI Open House May 7 – MCAA Cafeteria Layout



## Open House Feedback

### Input Provided to Facilitators

The following input was provided to meeting facilitators regarding the Plan recommendations.

- It was suggested that signal improvements include a protected left for White/Frey's Gin at US 41.
- It was requested that connections to trails to on campus routes be checked.
- A couple participants requested that the City ensure that the guidelines made all the sidewalks ADA accessible, except where this is not an option due to slope).
- One gentleman wanted to see a different configuration at the SPSU /Life University mixed use center development, suggesting the design to be focused towards the universities, creating a real place where students from the two schools can interact.
- A concern was raised about the plan's focus on capturing student expenditures as a part of making the development vision a success. Although it is recognized that this is an important aspect of reshaping the area, it should not dominate the plan's overall message.



*SPSU President Lisa Rossbacher and SPSU discuss the draft recommendations.*

### Feedback Provided via Comment Forms

The following additional feedback was provided via comment forms.

#### **Please provide comments and feedback on the Draft Concept Plan and study recommendations.**

- In the paper today, it was revealed [that] incentives to developers have not lived up to expectations – the developers have not created promised jobs. Bottom line is tax payers fund these studies and developments. A pretty picture but I am tired of increased taxes. Not practical.
- You are leaving the redevelopment to chance by just having a zoning overlay. Need to incorporate some design guidelines or form base code to guarantee future development is mixed use and not a one-story building.
- I am interested in what has been discussed for the common area between SPSU and Life University.
- The draft of the concept plan was very good, great presentation, creative ideas, great discussion, and answers to questions.

- How do I cross US 41 to get to “University Square”?
- How do I cross half of US 41 to get to transit running in the median?
- The Commons/Mixing Center/”Smyrna Market Village” component between the Universities is weak. Mostly retail with some open space. Does not show in the plan. Should be the jewel in your “sense of place.” Must touch both universities and US 41.
- If developers saw potential profit in restaurants, housing, etc., they would already be there.

**Please provide additional comments and ideas here.**

- Consider including night life businesses for students to use within walking distance.
- Looking forward to the next meeting and to see this Concept Plan hopefully implemented.

**Was this meeting what you expected? Please provide any specific thoughts on today’s meeting format.**

- Yes
- It was a great meeting. I enjoyed the presentation and the break-out sessions. Very informative.